Provide a comprehensive list of liturgical Christian denominations and churches.

The following report provides a comprehensive taxonomy of liturgical Christian denominations and churches.

Overview: Defining "Liturgical"

In this context, "liturgical" refers to churches that adhere to a fixed, historical order of worship (typically centering on the Word and Sacrament/Eucharist), use a lectionary (set scriptural readings), and generally maintain a high view of the visible church, often accompanied by apostolic succession (bishops).

The churches are categorized by their **Communion** (families of churches in full agreement with one another).

1. The Catholic Communion

The Catholic Church is a communion of **24 autonomous (*sui iuris*) churches** in union with the Bishop of Rome (the Pope). While the Latin Church is the largest, the other 23 are fully "Catholic" but maintain their own ancient liturgies, theology, and governance.

A. The Latin Church

- **Roman Catholic Church** (Uses the Roman Rite; the vast majority of Catholics worldwide).

B. The Eastern Catholic Churches (23 Churches)

These churches use Eastern liturgies identical to the Orthodox but are in communion with Rome. They are grouped by their liturgical tradition:

Alexandrian Rite

- Coptic Catholic Church
- Eritrean Catholic Church
- Ethiopian Catholic Church

Antiochene (West Syriac) Rite

- Maronite Church (The only Eastern church entirely Catholic, with no Orthodox counterpart)
- Syriac Catholic Church

- Syro-Malankara Catholic Church

Armenian Rite

- Armenian Catholic Church

Chaldean (East Syriac) Rite

- Chaldean Catholic Church
- Syro-Malabar Church

Byzantine Rite (Liturgies of St. John Chrysostom & St. Basil)

- Albanian Greek Catholic Church
- Belarusian Greek Catholic Church
- Bulgarian Greek Catholic Church
- Greek Catholic Church of Croatia and Serbia
- Greek Byzantine Catholic Church
- Hungarian Greek Catholic Church
- Italo-Albanian Catholic Church
- Macedonian Greek Catholic Church
- Melkite Greek Catholic Church
- Romanian Greek Catholic Church
- Russian Greek Catholic Church
- Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church (Byzantine Catholic Church in America)
- Slovak Greek Catholic Church
- Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (The largest Eastern Catholic church)

2. The Eastern Orthodox Communion

The Eastern Orthodox Church is a communion of self-governing (**autocephalous**) churches that share the same faith and Byzantine liturgy. They are not under the Pope but recognize the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople as *primus inter pares* (first among equals).

Ancient Patriarchates

- Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
- Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria
- Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
- Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Junior Patriarchates & Autocephalous Churches

- Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)
- Serbian Orthodox Church
- Romanian Orthodox Church
- Bulgarian Orthodox Church
- Georgian Orthodox Church
- Church of Cyprus
- Church of Greece
- Church of Poland
- Church of Albania
- Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia
- **Orthodox Church in America (OCA)** (Autocephaly recognized by Moscow but not universally)
- **Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU)** (Recognized by Constantinople; distinct from the Moscow-aligned UOC)

3. The Oriental Orthodox Communion

These churches separated from the rest of Christendom after the Council of Chalcedon (451 AD). They are distinct from the Eastern Orthodox (above).

- Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria
- Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch
- Armenian Apostolic Church (Includes the Sees of Etchmiadzin and Cilicia)
- Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church
- Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church
- Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (Indian Orthodox Church)

4. The Church of the East

Historically known as the "Nestorian" church, this ancient tradition developed in the Persian Empire, separate from Rome and Byzantium. It uses the East Syriac Rite.

- **Assyrian Church of the East**
- **Ancient Church of the East** (A breakway from the Assyrian church over calendar reforms, currently in dialogue for reunification)

5. The Anglican Tradition

Anglicanism is a "via media" (middle way) tradition, retaining the historic episcopate and liturgy (Book of Common Prayer) while absorbing Protestant theology.

A. The Anglican Communion

The official body of churches in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

- **The Episcopal Church (TEC)** (USA)
- **Church of England**
- **Anglican Church of Canada**
- (And ~40 other national provinces worldwide)

B. The Continuing Anglican Movement

Churches that separated from the Anglican Communion (mostly in the 20th century) to maintain traditional liturgy and doctrine.

- **Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)** (Largest alternative body; GAFCON affiliated)
- Anglican Catholic Church (ACC)
- Anglican Province of Christ the King (APCK)
- United Episcopal Church of North America (UECNA)
- Anglican Province of America (APA)

6. The Lutheran Tradition

Lutheranism retains a strong liturgical heritage (Mass, vestments, lectionary).

A. Confessional & High Church Bodies

These groups often emphasize the retention of the historic liturgy and conservative theology.

- **Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS)** (USA)
- **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)** (USA)
- **Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)** (USA)
- **Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC)**

B. State & National Churches

These are the historic national churches of Northern Europe. While often theologically broader, they maintain high liturgical aesthetics (cathedrals, vestments, sung liturgy).

- Church of Sweden
- Church of Norway

- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
- Church of Denmark
- Church of Iceland
- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)** (The mainline US body; shares full communion with the Episcopal Church)

7. Old Catholic & Independent Catholic

These churches originated from splits with Rome (often over Papal Infallibility in 1870) but maintain Catholic sacraments and orders.

Union of Utrecht (The historic Old Catholic body)

- Old Catholic Church of the Netherlands
- Catholic Diocese of the Old Catholics in Germany
- Christian Catholic Church of Switzerland
- Old Catholic Church of Austria

Union of Scranton (More conservative/traditionalist)

- **Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC)** (Originally formed by Polish immigrants in the US)
- Nordic Catholic Church

8. Other Liturgical Protestants

While less uniform than the traditions above, these denominations often have "High Church" wings or official liturgies.

- **Methodist:**
  - United Methodist Church (Specifically congregations following the "Order of Saint Luke" or high-church renewal movements).
- **Reformed/Presbyterian:**
  - Presbyterian Church (USA) (Liturgical wing).
  - Reformed Church in America (RCA).
  - Christian Reformed Church (CRC).
- **Moravian Church:** One of the oldest Protestant denominations with a rich liturgical and musical heritage.
- **Mar Thoma Syrian Church:** A Reformed church in India that uses an Eastern (West Syriac) liturgy; in full communion with the Anglican Church.

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